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# MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE. - BOSTON, SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1885.

strange, that I will trouble you with some what lengthy quotations from the reports in support thereof."

Mr. Blaine, in a like report, when Secretary of State, said: "Undoubtedly the inequalities in wages of the English and American operatives are equalized by the efficiency of the labor of their longer hours of labor." If such proletarians could prove that their system is the cause of high wages in the United States, they must show us why wages as a rule were higher here than in Europe before we ever had a tariff on imports at all. Yet, Alexander Hamilton deserved the fact, and declared our manufacturers "can afford to pay them." And they must tell us too, the reason why, that while wages advanced in England from 1872 to 1883, an average of nearly 10 per cent, they fell back during the same period in Massachusetts to the extent of 6.41 per cent.

When we are told, sir, that the increase in wealth since 1860 is due to protection, a few comparisons in support of the assertion are in order. Why is an attempt made to disguise the fact that between 1860 and 1866, during which period we saw the most rapid increase of wealth since 1815, the wealth of the country doubled? It is the only decade in the whole history of the country in which the wealth doubled. It is only doubled but increased 120 per cent. The following table was compiled by H. J. Phillips of Des Moines, Iowa, from the U. S. Census reports: "The comparison lies in the per cent of increase over the previous decade in thirteen essential items of growth of the period 1860-60 relatively to each of the periods 1860-70 and 1870-80."

## LINES OF PROGRESS.

	1860-70	1870-80
Population	151,000	16,200,000
Manufactures, aggregate	151,000	44,600,000
Foreign commerce, aggregate	151,000	60,000,000
Banking	151,000	60,000,000
Capital in manufacturing	151,000	60,000,000
Wages, &c., aggregate	151,000	60,000,000
Products	151,000	60,000,000
Trade and commerce	151,000	60,000,000
Patent and mechanical	151,000	60,000,000

Will you, Mr. Editor, or some of our protectionist friends, for the benefit of the Ploughman readers, kindly answer the following questions?

1. Name a manufacturer who will admit that he supports the system of protection because it lowers the price of the goods he manufactures and offers sale?

2. Name a fisherman who will admit that he supports protection because it lowers the price of fish?

3. Show by data that protection lowers the cost of production?

4. Show that improved machinery has been a great factor in lowering the cost of production, in any important branch of manufacture, in this country, during the last 20 years?

5. Show that it costs more in the item of labor to produce a yard of cloth, or a pound of product in the United States than it does in England, Germany or France?

6. Name the past and present American members of the Cobden Club, and state which of them, if any, have been or are "emissaries" of the English government?

Concord, Mass., June 4, 1885.

## The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1885.

"Persons desiring a change in the address of their paper must state the name and address of the new paper."

## MEETING OF FARMERS.

There will be a meeting of Farmers in the Hall of the Ploughman Building, on Saturday, June 20th inst., commencing at 10 o'clock in the evening. Subject for Discussion—Strawberry Culture."

Several well-known experts will be present and take part in the discussion.

## GLADSTONE'S DEFEAT.

On the question of increasing the duty on spirits and beer, as a part of the budget, the Gladstone ministry was defeated by a majority of 12. Though so narrow a majority, it was nevertheless of vital significance to the ministry, and in consequence it placed the strictures of the exchequer in the remoter sections of the country. They are very rarely to be found in the South and West, and consequently individual savings are either hoarded or entrusted to individuals in whom the owners of such money have confidence. The risk is great in both cases. The census of these institutions shows that in 1880 there were in New England 422 savings banks, in the Middle States 181, in the Southern States 5, and in the Western States 30, and in the Territories 50. Of late years, particularly during the period succeeding 1873, there has been a steady decline in the number of the most moderate means which all would feel they could accomplish. Both agriculturists and horticulturists have ever found these the warmest hospitality. There have been men of foremost distinction among their citizens in the establishment of postal savings banks in this country, after the plan of those which are in such successful operation in Great Britain and her colonies for many years, to be urged with an intelligent zeal in numerous quarters. The subjects have been brought before Congress, and there are indications in plenty that will be urged at the next winter's session of the Government to extend aid to such a scheme as is able to exert an influence extended and vigorous.

In such an agricultural event as this Worcester County reunion of farmers grafting furnaces, it is easy to see fresh evidences of an active spirit and irrepressible ardor both of the multifarious interests of agriculture as equal to a prediction of their steadily increasing influence and power in this our country. There has always existed an independent spirit in Worcester in whatever the circumstances. The town has been practically unknown in Chichester, the first of the month. When asked his opinion of the agitation of the land question, he remarked—"The government has been petitioned to extend aid to the exchequer. Of course, I don't know what will be done. The trouble is that there are too many crofters and not enough land. There are over one hundred thousand crofters, and Scotland is not a very large country, so they don't all have crofts or farms. Emigration would be a good thing. They should dig out. Of course, emigration would be only a temporary relief; the permanent remedy must come from the government in the way of aid or legislation. These crofts are very small pieces of ground. They were originally intended for potato planting, were set apart for that purpose. These crofts are an imprudent class. They spend every thing they can get, and nothing else. They are lazy, too. They prefer to live on four pounds a year on these crofts rather than make more than a living by labor.

While the exchequer to animals service is equal to such human service for the range of draft creatures dependent on man, it is of interest from time to time to note the remarkable intelligence of the brutes creatures who claim at least this amount of human consideration. The horse known to all New Yorkers as a feature in their military parades and processions was born recently in the State of New York, in the remoter parts of the country. They are very rarely to be found in the South and West, and consequently individual savings are either hoarded or entrusted to individuals in whom the owners of such money have confidence. The risk is great in both cases.

The census of the remoter parts of the country, of course, is not available.

The history of the Freedmen's Savings Bank has by no means lost its impressiveness. The industrious blocks of South could hardly be expected to look with favor upon anything with the name of savings bank after that. And the people of the Western States have suffered from the repeated swindling of men whose names were synonymous with banks for savings, so that very little persuasion is required to bring them over to the side of the cause.

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